

**EXERCISE---EXERCISE--- EXERCISE (NLE11)**  
**State of Indiana Response to Catastrophic Earthquake**  
**1600 EDT, May 17, 2011**

***New information in Bold Italics***

**SITUATION OVERVIEW**

Indiana has received a Presidential Emergency Declaration opening the door for federal financial assistance. Under a Presidential Emergency Declaration, an "Emergency" is any occasion or instance in which the president determines that federal assistance is needed to supplement state and local efforts to save lives and protect property and public health and safety or to avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States. At this time, federal assistance is focused on immediate and short-term essential activities, such as search and rescue, medical needs and evacuations.

At approximately 10:00 a.m. on May 16, 2011, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake occurred 40 miles northwest of Memphis, Tenn., near Marked Tree, Arkansas. The shaking from the earthquake was felt throughout Indiana. The earthquake registered as a 6.2 magnitude along the Wabash Valley. (A map of the earthquake epicenter is attached.) A second earthquake occurred at 10:02 a.m. in Mt. Carmel, IL with an initial magnitude of 6.0.

As of May 17, 2011, 27 counties have reported being affected by the earthquake: Putnam, Vermillion, Parke, Vigo, Clay, Owen, Greene, Sullivan, Monroe, Brown, Lawrence, Jackson, Orange, Washington, Bartholomew, Knox, Gibson, Posey, Warrick, Spencer, Perry, Dubois, Crawford, Daviess, Martin, Pike and Vanderburgh Counties.

The worst damage is believed to be in IDHS District 10, where 75 percent of the structures are observed to be damaged and at least 50 percent of those were severely damaged. (See attached map.)

***County emergency declarations have been announced for nine counties - Vanderburgh, Warrick, Knox, Pike, Porter, Dubois, Vermillion, Parke and Crawford.***

***All rail traffic in Indiana has been stopped pending inspection of bridges.***

**Communications:** Widespread outages of cable, landline, cellular, and internet services are reported across southwestern Indiana. ***911 centers are not operational in some areas. Cell towers are being evaluated and repaired, but transportation issues are hampering repairs. Communications have been restored to all counties in IDHS District 5. Electrical power has been restored to five counties in IDHS District 6.***

**Power Outages:** *The state has received reports of significant power outages for Southwestern Indiana. An estimated 844,474 households are without power.*

**Water/Sewer disruptions:** *Water supply disruptions are being reported in four southwestern counties (Crawford, Spencer, Warrick and Perry). It is believed that water supply and sewer disruptions are widespread throughout southwestern Indiana.*

**Shelters:** *To find a shelter near you, text NLESHELTER followed by your Zip Code to 738674. For example, if your zip code was 72756, you would text NLESHELTER 72756 to 738674.*

**Casualties:** *The current number of confirmed fatalities is 92, and the number of others injured is currently estimated at 8,850.*

A chlorine tank car train derailment in Vincennes caused 10 fatalities, 400 serious injuries and more than 1,000 additional injuries. *The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has contained the spill and is controlling operations and cleanup. Residents within one mile of the derailment, who were evacuated earlier, are now being allowed to return to their homes.*

*The Putnam County Courthouse collapsed around 1 a.m. There have been six confirmed fatalities and 79 injuries, including 12 critical injuries.*

*The parking garage (not the casino itself) at Casino Aztar in Evansville has collapsed. Six people are confirmed injured; another six (estimated) are believed to be trapped. Evansville FD is responding.*

*Vanderburgh County hospitals report they are completely full and unable to accept additional patients at this time. Individuals in this area who need hospital and/or emergency treatment should seek treatment at hospitals and health care facilities outside Vanderburgh County. Hospitals and medical treatment may be found in nearby counties, including Posey, Gibson and Warrick.*

*Red Cross Health Services has several medical teams coming in to assist, including Doctors without Borders and a team from the University of Miami (FL).*

*Indianapolis International Airport: The airport has passed inspection and is now open.*

*Vigo County Airport: The airport is now open.*

**Road Closures:** Many major highways across southwestern Indiana have been closed due to earthquake-related bridge damage. INDOT inspectors will post “road closed” or “bridge closed” signs when possible, but travelers should not assume that a road or bridge is safe to travel if there is no sign posted.

*Speed is being restricted to 50mph for all interstate traffic on any open highways.*

## **RESPONSE EFFORTS**

**State Emergency Operations Center:** Under the leadership of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), the Indiana Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated at the highest level and will remain activated 24 hours a day to monitor conditions and provide resource support to local county emergency agencies. The state is working with local emergency management officials that can be contacted to assess the damages throughout the state. State officials have also been in contact with FEMA officials.

**State Agencies supporting activities in the State EOC include:**

Indiana Board of Animal Health  
Indiana Department of Administration  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
Indiana Department of Homeland Security  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Indiana Department of Transportation  
Indiana Family and Social Services Administration  
Indiana National Guard  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Indiana State Police  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
Integrated Public Safety Commission

**Other organizations supporting activities in the State EOC include:**

American Red Cross  
US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

**County Emergency Operations Center Activations:** 11 counties have activated their emergency operation centers (EOC).

**Task Force 1** arrived in Mount Vernon, Indiana last night at 5:30 p.m. to assist local emergency management with ongoing response efforts. Indiana Task Force 1 is a federally organized emergency response team comprised of emergency responders from fire departments in and around Marion County/Indianapolis, and civilians from various professional backgrounds across the state. Several specialized disciplines comprise the team, including: Technical Rescue, Search, Hazardous Materials, Medical and Logistics.

**IDHS:** The state also has deployed District Response Task Forces 1 and the fire component of District 4 and EMS component of District 6 to Posey County. Those task forces include fire, EMS, law enforcement, all hazards support and support staffs. District Response Task Force 2 will be deployed today to relieve District Task Force 1 Tomorrow. *[Reference IDHS district map]*

***IN Task Force 1 and OH Task Force 1 are working in Mount Vernon on two rescues.***

In Indiana the district concept divides the state into 10 geographic segments or districts. Within each district, IDHS has guided the development of an emergency response task force, each with

varying capabilities, to support local emergency management agencies and streamline the mutual aid process.

These district response task forces are staffed with local volunteers including firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, emergency managers, law enforcement personnel and other local emergency response professionals.

**INDOT:** Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) highway and bridge inspectors are assessing the structures throughout the state as quickly as they can, but the extensive area of damage created by the earthquakes has complicated their efforts.

***INNG: The Indiana National Guard has deployed more than 3,000 Guard members in response to earthquake disaster relief operations, supporting county emergency management agencies. The full force and capabilities of the Indiana National Guard are available for response to this disaster and will be deployed as needed.***

***Bulk Distribution sites: The American Red Cross is working with local EMAs to determine bulk distribution sites in the affected counties.***

***ISP: In addition to regularly assigned staff, Indiana State Police has 17 units dispatched to the affected area to assist with search and rescue operations, provide traffic assistance and security, and assist local emergency management officials with response efforts.***

***Ohio: Five Ambulance Strike Teams (each consisting of five ambulances with 2 EMS personnel per ambulance) from Ohio will be staging in Columbus, Indiana Wednesday morning to support EMS efforts in the affected area.***

For more information about staying safe during an earthquake, visit [www.GetPrepared.in.gov](http://www.GetPrepared.in.gov).

Follow Indiana on “my social media” at [www.MySocialMedia.com/Indiana](http://www.MySocialMedia.com/Indiana) to stay informed about this developing situation.

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**Media Contact:** THE FOLLOWING CONTACT INFORMATION IS NOT FOR DISCLOSURE TO THE PUBLIC: Joint Information Center (JIC) 317.238.1784, [JIC@JIC.in.gov](mailto:JIC@JIC.in.gov).